<u>Remarks</u>

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-10, 13-15, 17-18, 21-15, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,356,665 of *Lei et al.* ("*Lei*").

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lei* and International Application WO 00/10131 of *Wang et al.* ("*Wang*").

The Examiner has stated that claims 11-12, 19-20, and 26-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, applicant has amended claim 11 to include all of the limitations of base claim 9 and have amended claim 19 to include all of the limitations of base claim 17 and have amended claim 26 to include all of the limitations of base claim 24. Applicant has also amended claims 13, 21, and 28 to depend from amended claims 11, 19, and 26, respectively. Given that claims 12-16, 20-23, and 27-28 depend from amended claims 11, 19, and 26, respectively, it is submitted that claims 11-16, 19-23, and 26-28 are in a condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 9 in not anticipated by *Lei*. Amended claim 9 is a method for coding a set of numbers represented by a set of bit-planes that includes the limitations

> generating a bit stream including a set of significance information and a set of refinement information that describes a current one of the bit-planes in terms of a tree structure having a hierarchical arrangement of leaves such that the significance information for the leaves of the tree structure are described in the bit stream in an order that is determined by an arrangement of zero values in a tree structure for the bit-plane having a next higher significance and <u>the refinement information for the current one of the bit-planes follows the significance information for the current one of the bit-planes in the bit stream.</u>

(Amended claim 9) (emphasis added).

Lei does not disclose that the refinement information for a current bit-plane follows the significance information for the current bit-plane as claimed in amended claim 9. Instead, Figures 6A and 6B of *Lei* show bit streams in which refinement bits for a bit-plane precede significance bits for the same bit-plane.

Given that claim 10 depends from amended claim 9, it is submitted that claim 10 is not anticipated by *Lei*.

It is also submitted that amended claims 17 and 24 are not anticipated by *Lei*. Amended claims 17 and 24 include limitations similar to the limitations of amended claim 9. Therefore, the remarks stated above with respect to amended claim 9 also apply to amended claims 17 and 24.

Given that claims 18 and 25 depend from amended claims 17 and 24, respectively, it is submitted that claims 18 and 25 are not anticipated by *Lei*.
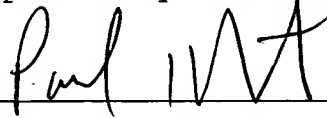
It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the applicable rejections have been overcome.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4-26-04   By: _____

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